

R E M A R K S

This Amendment is submitted as a full and complete response to the outstanding Official Office Action mailed July 21, 2003. By this Amendment, applicant has now canceled Claims 3, 13 and 18 without prejudice and has amended independent Claims 1, 11 and 16. Accordingly, it is now believed that amended independent Claims 1, 11 and 16 and the remaining claims dependent thereon have been placed in condition for allowance.

Turning now to the action on the merits, it is noted that the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 6-8, 11 and 16 as being allegedly anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of Masghati, U.S. Patent No. 5,841,620. Further, the Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 4, 9, 12, 14, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Masghati. He has set forth in detail his reasons for these rejections on pages 2-6 of the Office Action.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, it is noted that Claims 3, 5, 10, 13, 15, 18 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of this, applicant has now canceled Claim 3 and has incorporated the subject matter thereof into amended independent Claim 1. The word "conducted" has been replaced by the word --conductive--. It will also be noted that the word "top" has been deleted in Claim 1 so as to be consistent with the tip conductive trace being formed on the surface of the printed circuit board. It is submitted that these changes do not in any way affect the allowability of amended Claim 1. Claim 5 has now been made to be dependent upon amended Claim 1.

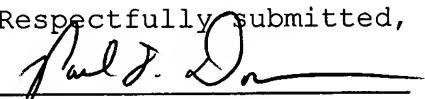
Similarly, applicant has now canceled Claim 13 and has incorporated the subject matter thereof into amended independent Claim 11. The word "conducted" has been replaced by the word --conductive--. It will also be noted that the word "top" has been deleted in Claim 11 so as to be consistent with the tip conductive trace being formed on the surface of the printed circuit board. It is submitted that these changes do not in any way affect the allowability of amended Claim 11. Claim 15 has now been made to be dependent upon amended Claim 11.

Further, applicant has now canceled Claim 18 and has incorporated the subject matter thereof into amended independent Claim 16. The word "conductor" has been replaced by the word

-conductive--. Claim 20 has now been made to be dependent upon amended Claim 16.

Accordingly, it is believed that amended independent Claims 1, 11 and 16 have been place in condition for allowance. Further, since the remaining pending claims are dependent upon one of amended Claims 1, 11 and 16, all of these dependent claims should likewise be allowed for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each. Therefore, a formal Notice of Allowability is believed to be in order and the same is earnestly solicited.

In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application may be expedited by direct contact with applicant's attorney, he is requested to call the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on
Sept. 4, 2003 (Date).

Pat F. Donosa

Name of Applicant, Assignee,
or Registered Representative


Signature
9/4/03